

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A network device managing apparatus comprising:

[[first]] receiving unit adapted to receive ~~means for receiving~~ a search request of network devices and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

searching unit adapted to search network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

~~first list forming means for forming a list of the network devices according to the request received by said first receiving means;~~

~~holding means for holding the identification information received by said first receiving means and the list formed by said first list forming means in association with each other;~~

~~second receiving means for receiving a request and the identification information from said data processing apparatus, after the list formed by said first list forming means was held by said holding means;~~

~~second list forming means for forming a list of the network devices according to the request received by said second receiving means;~~

~~acquiring means for acquiring, from the lists held by said holding means, the list formed by said first list forming means associated with the identification information received by said second receiving means;~~

obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit;

comparing means for comparing the list acquired by said acquiring means with the list formed by said second list forming means unit adapted to compare the search result by said searching unit with the past device list obtained by said obtaining unit;

[[data]] forming means for forming data based on the list formed by said second list forming means, and specifying the network devices not included in the list acquired by said acquiring means, such specification being used to display the list on which the specified network devices are emphasized unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by said searching unit the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

[[data]] transmitting means for transmitting unit adapted to transmit the [[data]] device list formed by said [[data]] forming [[means]] unit to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A network device managing apparatus which, comprises:

[[first]] receiving means for receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

first list forming means for forming a list showing respective states of network devices according to the request received by said first receiving means;

holding means for holding the identification information received by said first

~~receiving means and the list formed by said first list forming means in association with each other;~~

~~second receiving means for receiving a request and the identification information from said data processing apparatus, after the list formed by said first list forming means was held by said holding means;~~

~~second list forming means for forming a list of the respective states of the network devices according to the request received by said second receiving means;~~

~~acquiring means for acquiring, from the lists held by said holding means, the list formed by said first list forming means associated with the identification information received by said second receiving means;~~

searching unit adapted to search network devices in response to the search request received by said receiving unit;

obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit;

~~comparing means for comparing the list acquired by said acquiring means with the list formed by said second list forming means~~ unit adapted to compare the search result by said searching unit with the past device list obtained by said obtaining unit;

~~[[data]] forming means for forming data which specifies the network devices whose states have changed and which is used to display the list on which the specified network devices are emphasized~~ unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by said searching unit the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

[[data]] transmitting ~~means for transmitting~~ unit adapted to transmit the [[data]]
device list formed by said [[data]] forming [[means]] unit to said data processing apparatus.

Claim 3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said list indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[data]] device list formed by said [[data]] forming [[means]] unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[data]] device list formed by said [[data]] forming [[means]] unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

- a [[first]] receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information from a data processing apparatus;
- a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;
- ~~a first list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;~~
- ~~a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first~~

~~receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;~~

~~a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;~~

~~a second list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;~~

~~an acquiring step of acquiring, from the lists held in said holding step, the list formed in said first list forming step associated with the identification information received in said second receiving step;~~

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

~~a comparing step of comparing the list acquired in said acquiring step with the list formed in said second list forming step~~ step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

~~a [[data]] forming step of forming data based on the list formed in said second list forming step and specifying the network devices not included in the list acquired by said acquiring means, such specification being used to display the list on which the specified network devices are emphasized~~ step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

~~a [[data]] transmitting step of transmitting the [[data]] device list formed in said [[data]] forming step to said data processing apparatus.~~

Claim 7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the ~~[[data]]~~ device list formed in said ~~[[data]]~~ forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

- a ~~[[first]]~~ receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information from a data processing apparatus;
- ~~a first list forming step of forming a list showing respective states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;~~
- ~~a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;~~
- ~~a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;~~
- ~~a second list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;~~
- ~~an acquiring step of acquiring, from the lists held in said holding step, the list formed in said first list forming step associated with the identification information received in said second receiving step;~~
- a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request

received in said receiving step;

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

a comparing ~~step of comparing the list acquired in said acquiring step with the list formed in said second list forming step~~ step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a ~~[[data]] forming step of forming data which specifies the network devices whose states have changed and which is used to display the list on which the specified network devices are emphasized~~ step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a ~~[[data]] transmitting step of transmitting the [[data]] device list formed in said [[data]] forming step to said data processing apparatus.~~

Claim 10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said list indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the [[data]] device list formed in said [[data]] forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A program for controlling a computer so as to

execute:

a ~~[[first]]~~ receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and identification information from a data processing apparatus;

a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;

~~a first list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;~~

~~a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;~~

~~a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;~~

~~a second list forming step of forming a list of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;~~

~~an acquiring step of acquiring, from the lists held in said holding step, the list formed in said first list forming step associated with the identification information received in said second receiving step;~~

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the list acquired in said acquiring step with the list formed in said second list forming step step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

a ~~[[data]] forming step of forming data based on the list formed in said second list forming step, and specifying the network devices not included in the list acquired in said acquiring step, such specification being used to display the list on which the specified network devices are emphasized~~ step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

a ~~[[data]] transmitting step of transmitting the [[data]] device list formed in said~~ [[data]] transmitting step of transmitting the [[data]] device list formed in said ~~[[data]] forming step to said data processing apparatus.~~

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a ~~[[first]] receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and~~ [[first]] receiving step of receiving a search request of network devices and ~~identification information from a data processing apparatus;~~

~~a first list forming step of forming a list showing respective states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said first receiving step;~~

~~a holding step of holding the identification information received in said first receiving step and the list formed in said first list forming step in association with each other;~~

~~a second receiving step of receiving a request and identification information from the data processing apparatus;~~

~~a second list forming step of forming a list showing states of network devices in accordance with the request received in said second receiving step;~~

~~an acquiring step acquiring, from the lists held in said holding step, the list formed~~

~~in said first list forming step associated with the identification information received by said second receiving means;~~

a searching step of searching network devices in response to the search request received in said receiving step;

an obtaining step of obtaining a past device list associated with the identification information received in said receiving step, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search in said searching step;

~~a comparing step of comparing the list acquired in said acquiring step with the list formed in said second list forming step~~ step of comparing the search result of said searching step with the past device list obtained in said obtaining step;

~~a [[data]] forming step of forming data which specifies the network devices whose states have changed and which is used to display the list on which the specified network devices are emphasized~~ step of specifying from among the network devices searched in said searching step the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and

~~a [[data]] transmitting step of transmitting the [[data]] device list formed in said [[data]] forming step to said data processing apparatus.~~

Claim 14. (New) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising holding unit adapted to hold the past device list,
wherein said obtaining unit obtains the past device list held by said holding unit.

Claim 15. (New) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (New) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2,
further comprising holding unit adapted to hold the past device list,
wherein said obtaining unit obtains the past device list held by said holding unit.

Claim 17. (New) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2,
wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.